

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

Meeting 9:00 A.M.

Montesano City Hall
112 N. Main St.
Montesano, WA

March 21, 2013 - Meeting Notes

Board Members Present: Jim Cook, City of Aberdeen; Ken Estes, City of Montesano; Wes Cormier, Grays Harbor Commissioner; Edna Fund, Lewis County Commissioner; Ron Averill, City of Centralia; Karen Valenzuela, Thurston County Commissioner; Alan Vanell, Town of Bucoda; Arnold Haberstroh, City of Chehalis; Vickie Raines, City of Cosmopolis; Lionel Pinn, City of Napavine; Dolores Lee, Town of Pe Ell; Dan Thompson, City of Oakville

Others Present: Please see sign-in sheet

Handouts/Materials Used:

- Agenda
- Work Program for Next Biennium
- Sickman Ford Bridge Assessment
- Meeting Notes from February 14 and 21
- Financial Report

WORK SESSION AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Valenzuela called the meeting to order at 9:00 in the Chair's absence, stating that Chair Raines would be arriving shortly. A hearty thank you was extended to Al and Wanda for the wonderful breakfast.

2. Introductions

Self-introductions were made by all attending.

3. Update on Governor's Budget and Communication with Legislature

Mr. Kramer stated that the economic forecast came out on Wednesday and the predictions are similar to what the budget was based on in December. The expectation is that the capital budget is the same as previously proposed. Governor Inslee will put out a revised capital budget by the end of March, with some tweaks but no major changes; the operating budget is the serious focus. The Senate will come out with their capital budget at the end of the month and it will be known then if the Chehalis package is in those two budgets.

Mr. Kramer mentioned the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN) is opposing the capital budget until there is a discussion between President Sharp and the Governor. Former Governor Gregoire suggested a government to government consultation with the QIN but it has not been initiated as far as Mr. Kramer knows.

The Governor's office has invited the Chehalis Basin work group to meet with the Governor on April 4.

4. Status of Jobs Now Projects

Mr. Boettcher reported that he has loaded each Basin project on the iPRMT site. Today he will lead a discussion on each project: what it is and where it will be by the end of 2013.

Aberdeen: Three projects were funded in Aberdeen. One is for a dike behind Burger King which was funded \$24,000 for preliminary design and engineering. Mr. Bowie, Aberdeen Public Works, stated the preliminary design and engineering will probably be done after July of 2013. The consultant work will be done in 2013.

Another Aberdeen project is the dike on the bank of the Wishkah River north of the highway. This project is to raise the roads to create a dike to protect the residences and commercial properties. The preliminary design and engineering will be done in July, 2013.

The third Aberdeen project is to do geotechnical work for documentation to certify the south side levy to determine if it meets federal standards. Mr. Bowie stated that the Requests for Proposal (RFP) are being reviewed but it is not a priority because Aberdeen has not heard from FEMA. Mr. Boettcher stated the \$50,000 is being held for this project.

Mr. Kramer stated that the Legislature gave \$5 million and required any projects that would be funded must be endorsed by the Chehalis Tribe and the Flood Authority. Then OFM would enter into the contract. The Flood Authority's interest is to see that the money has been spent in this biennium so more money can be requested to do more projects. Is the Flood Authority going to spend the money? What role does the Flood Authority want to play as the alternatives are investigated by project sponsors? The three Aberdeen projects are on track to spend all of the funds on these projects.

Mr. Boettcher stated there are not too many alternatives for the Burger King dike, or the Wishkah Rd. dike.

Mr. Haberstroh asked what will happen to the businesses between the river and the dike. Mr. Bowie stated that was a good question and the city is still looking at all options. Mr. Boettcher stated the original analysis was to raise the roads.

Bucoda: Mr. Boettcher stated funding was for \$42,000 to look at options, engineering and costs for a dike around the water treatment plant. The plan is to raise the existing levee about 5' at the highest point. That project has been completed and the cost was in the governor's budget.

Satsop River Restoration: This project was for \$50,000 for flood plain restoration. The project is to pull rip rap out and pull the dike out. A consultant was hired (WSE) and a stakeholder meeting was held. Background information is now being gathered. Commissioner Cormier stated hydraulic models are being done right now.

Mr. Boettcher stated alternatives will be available in April on what will have the most hydraulic effect. Permitting and land use strategies are due in April and May. There will be a parallel look at permitting with a conclusion at the end of June and then implementation.

Mr. Travis Nelson stated that WDFW has done a feasibility study on that project. Mr. Karpack will be speaking to an engineering group and is offering that connection so WDFW can go over the file. Mr.

Boettcher stated Mr. Nelson and Mr. Lund (DOE) are offering their help. They come from the regulatory sides of their agencies and it is good to have these interests here.

Wishkah Rd: This project is for \$125,000 for engineering and preliminary design and hydraulic modeling. The road needs to be kept open for emergencies during a flood event. AMEC is in the data gathering stage now and will be looking at alternatives through June, with a final report coming at the end of June. They are on track to spend all of the money. At the May meeting the Flood Authority will be looking at a multitude of alternatives.

Adna Levee: This is a railroad grade that was made into rails to trail. The berm was never maintained and water backed up into Adna. The project will be in two phases because there are some wetland issues which need to go through DOE and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Phase I is to clean 4200 feet of the ditch, which is done. Phase II will be to put in box culverts and that is expected to be done by the middle of August. There is \$244,000 for this project and about 75% of the cost will be for Phase II.

Airport Levee: The funding for Phase I is to widen and repair the existing levee so it is stable and can support Phase II if and when that time comes. Widening work will be done on the inside of the levee. There are some permitting and regulatory issues. Phase IA is to make improvements to non-jurisdictional wetlands. The goal is to start construction in June with completion in August. Areas with wetlands will most likely be done next summer.

Mr. Haberstroh asked why all the work can't be done at once because moving equipment is very costly. Commissioner Fund stated that Public Works is working on doing that.

Critter Pads: \$500,000 was awarded to the Lewis County Conservation Commission to identify critter pads and evacuation routes. The original projection was for 6 critter pads. One of those was a better evacuation route and another had the wrong kind of fill. Three have been funded, built and are operational. Fill is coming from existing sites. Mr. Butch Ogden stated that the evacuation route was not through the Flood Authority. It was from the Conservation Commission with a match. Money left over will be used for other projects. Not all of the \$500,000 has been spent. The fill source is in place for the next two pads and contracts will be let by the end of April and will be built as soon as it stops raining. That will exhaust the \$500,000.

Montesano: A little more than ~~\$402,000~~ \$102,000 is the Mary's River Lumber and the Montesano treatment plant. There are options for the thinning oxbow: armoring the oxbow; armoring on the river bank next to the mill; open the relic channel. Hydraulics are being developed now with an analysis in May and the work completed by July.

Mr. Boettcher reported that the rain gage station that the Chehalis Tribe put in is operating now. The Sickman Ford Bridge repair is under way. These are not Flood Authority projects but they will be beneficial to the Basin. Mr. Averill stated that the analysis of the Sickman Ford Bridge answered questions that were brought up during the February phone meeting.

Mr. Boettcher stated that the Montesano, Satsop and Wishkah projects will have alternatives processes. What interest does the Flood Authority have regarding those alternatives? Mr. Kramer stated there is money from the Adna project not spent; the airport expense should be tallied and sent out. What will be spent and what will be carried over? What role will the Flood Authority have on these three projects regarding significant alternatives or the presentation of those projects? All of them will be in the

analysis phase but one will not be selected until May. Flood Authority members supported a discussion of alternatives for the projects under design at their May meeting.

Mr. Steven Friederich asked why the rest of the money could not be used for that project. Mr. Boettcher replied that the Fiscal year ends on June 30. State capital dollars can go forward to the next biennium and it can be spent on preferred alternatives that were identified. It will be rolled over for that project.

Ms. Willis stated there was a meeting for citizens regarding the Satsop project and the Wishkah Rd project and the contractors are working on those concerns now. How will outreach work with the citizens when the alternatives come back to the Flood Authority?

Chair Raines stated they can be notified of the meeting and the County Commissioners will have meetings to discuss the alternatives. The County will make recommendations to the Flood Authority and the Flood Authority will either agree or ask questions. The meetings should be held by the jurisdictions, not the Flood Authority.

Mr. Perry Lund stated that projects near or in rivers take longer in the permit process and he would like to avoid delays or breaking up projects. If construction is scheduled for October then the project design needs to be talked about now with the state and federal agencies. Ecology needs to talk to the project proponents or whoever is responsible for putting the paperwork through and alternatives need to be included in those conversations. Open houses where each table is set up with a project would be a great opportunity for the public to understand the projects. Our interest as an agency is to talk about these projects as early in the design process as possible. We don't want to tell you that you will not be permitted 90 days before the project is to be constructed.

Mr. Lund stated he has not seen any pre-application on the Burger King project. There will be shoreline issues there. Ecology needs to sit down with the city and go through the master program. Depending on the assumption on the back end of a project – the city gives Ecology a JARPA and Ecology hands them a permit – it isn't going to happen like that. There will be complications and Ecology doesn't want to be responsible for holding it up. We need to talk to project engineers, etc.

Mr. Kramer stated that from the schedule for these three projects it appears they will be well into the alternatives analysis. There is a need to know what the permitting issues are. If this workshop idea makes sense, it should happen before the Flood Authority meets so the issues can be raised.

Mr. Boettcher will talk with Mr. Lund and with Mr. Nelson on ways to streamline the process, which starts with early engagement. Some bigger projects will have regulatory issues. We don't want the permitting process to be a hindrance at the tail end of the project.

Ms. Kathi Hoder stated the City Council will help with workshops.

Mr. Kramer stated it is the project sponsor's job to figure out the permitting process. Will it be easier to get permitting agencies together for all the projects rather than separately? Mr. Lund's idea of a workshop makes sense. Chair Raines stated perhaps the afternoon of the May meeting could be used for a workshop while everyone is together. Mr. Kramer stated he would ask Mr. Boettcher to work with Mr. Lund and Mr. Nelson and the project sponsors to work that out.

5. Outreach to Basin Governments

Commissioner Fund commended Mr. Boettcher for a great job in updating the information regarding the outreach meetings. She congratulated Mr. Cook for attending the meetings outside his jurisdiction – it showed support. Commissioner Fund has heard nice comments about having the information available ahead of the meeting and that the process has been good. When there was a question Scott would get an answer back and then modify the presentation. She thanked everyone who participated. The group has been asked to come back and we should continue as we go through the new cycles.

Mr. Boettcher stated ten presentations have been done. Bucoda will have one on April 9 and Lewis County will have one on April 15. He offered make a presentation to the Chehalis Tribe. Commissioner Fund stated the Chehalis Centralia Chamber is interested in a presentation. She asked that if any other Chamber or organization is interested to let the committee know.

Mr. Boettcher stated several questions were asked at the meetings. He posted them on the screen and suggested they could be FAQs to post on the website.

Comments were made by some of those who attended the outreach meetings. Mr. Haberstroh stated the meetings were positive and open. Mr. Swartout attended the meeting in Pe Ell and stated there was some skepticism on some answers that were given so far, especially regarding the cost of a dam. One question: If you are looking 20 years out using today's dollars, what will it look like then? Another: The committee that meets with the governor: why were these people chosen?

Ms. Lee stated she learned a lot at the outreach meeting and she imagined the general public is learning; their attitudes are changing about what is being accomplished. She was asked by Keith Phillips her opinion about J. Vander Stoep representing Pe Ell. She stated he is an excellent representative and there is not a better choice.

Chair Raines stated the governor's group consists of herself, Karen Valenzuela, J. Vander Stoep, Jay Gordon, Jim Kramer and Keith Phillips. It's a good group and it has helped strengthen the relationship to the Chehalis Tribe. It is good to hear their concerns and desires. She also stated that the group will respond to all the questions they can. It doesn't have all the answers.

6. Discussion of Work Program for Next Biennium

Mr. Kramer stated the Executive Committee would work on the budget and it would be completed in May. Some monies are reserved in the capital budget for the Flood Authority for the next biennium and we need to develop what the cost might be.

Mr. Kramer's Power Point followed.

Implementation of Work Group Framework

- Feasibility of water retention
- Alternatives for I-5
- Small projects scenario
- Construction of cap projects
- Multi-purpose projects and aquatic species enhancement plan
- Strategic approach for FEMA community based rating system, buyouts, home elevations

Mr. Kramer assumes at this point that this work will be overseen by a policy group. Currently, the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group is committed to continue to the end of the legislative session. Governor Inslee could ask the Work Group to continue or appoint a new group to oversee this work in the next biennium. This issue may be part of focus of discussion with Governor Inslee on April 4.

In the next biennium there needs to be an Inclusive process for framework implementation

- Ruckelshaus Center coordinated technical, policy and public workshops – per year
- Public workshops in 3 locations of basin*
- Policy group oversight
- Flood Authority input to policy group

Mr Kramer is suggesting to use same type of set-up as was used at Great Wolf lodge in June 2012 and adding public workshops. Over 2 years, have 4 public technical and policy workshops so people know what is being studied, what the assumptions are, etc. leading up to decision. Consider three meetings leading up to the workshop.

Mr. Kramer suggested the following elements for the Flood Authority Work Program

- Provide input for framework implementation
- Oversee implementation of construction projects
- Maintain and update flood warning system
- Continue outreach to basin governments
- Budget and staffing similar to current six-month period

Mr. Kramer stated that whatever input the Flood Authority provides will go to the staff and executive committee for the proposed budget. There were no changes and thumbs' up for the framework.

Flood Authority members were in full support of the recommended work program.

Mr. Vanell stated the website looks good and the outreach has been good. He asked if there was a way to approach Seattle newspapers and TV stations to show what is being done in Lewis County to make statewide news. Could there be links on their websites? Do we want to do that? He suggested *Evening Magazine*.

Chair Raines asked the Education and Outreach committee to look into that.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

The Chair dispensed with the call to order and introductions.

3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Raines added Item 4b to the agenda: approval of subcommittees. The agenda was approved with the addition.

4. Approval of Meeting Notes from February 14 and 21

There were no corrections or additions to the meeting notes and were approved as presented.

4b. Approval of subcommittees

Chair Raines described the subcommittee members:

Executive Committee

City of Cosmopolis
Thurston County
City of Chehalis
City of Napavine

Community Outreach and Education

Lewis County
Town of Pe Ell
City of Oakville
City of Montesano

Project Committee

Grays Harbor County
City of Centralia
City of Aberdeen
Town of Bucoda

There were no changes and the subcommittees were approved. Chair Raines stated that the Project Committee would be on hold for a while depending on the outcome of the budget from the Legislature. Once the package is approved, the Flood Authority will be able to move forward on some projects.

5. Public Comment

The Chair postponed Public Comment until the end of the agenda.

6. Reports

a. Chair's Report

Chair Raines met with the legislature and things are going well and the Authority will be kept in the loop as groups continue to meet. The Chehalis Basin work group meets with Governor Inslee on April 4.

b. Member Reports

Pe Ell – Ms. Lee stated Pe Ell is working on getting information to Mr. Boettcher on projects in Pe Ell.

Bucoda – Mr. Vanell stated Bucoda is looking forward to completing the levee project.

Chehalis – Mr. Haberstroh stated there is positive response about the outreach project and he is looking forward to the airport project.

Thurston County – Commissioner Valenzuela stated at the Chehalis Watershed Cooperative meeting there was discussion about dissolving the organization because their work is being accomplished by the Governor's Chehalis Basin Work Group. One goal of the Cooperative was to engage the Chehalis Tribe after they left the Flood Authority. Commissioner Valenzuela also announced that Mark Swartout would be retiring in a couple of months. He has a long history with water resources and will be missed.

Centralia – Mr. Averill stated the I-5 project to improve Blakeslee Junction is coming along well. This is a DOT project and its original design was being done with the Corps' Twin Cities Project which included levees. There are two new bridges that will handle collector lanes which keep local traffic off of I-5. The Mellen St. interchange will change; WSDOT calls it a large round-about. There will be a separate project to use Airport Road to get to Town Center without having to go on the freeway or Chamber Way. There is nothing currently on the books about widening I-5 from Mellen to 13th St. The entire project will need to be extended because Chamber Way bridge needs to be repaired. Hopefully the project will be done by September, 2015.

Aberdeen – Mr. Cook stated Mr. Swartout has been an extraordinary asset to this organization. Mr. Cook stated he and Frank Kersh attended a Democratic Party crab feed and Mr. Cook asked questions about the budget. He received positive comments about the budget.

Oakville – Mr. Thompson stated residents in the area of the Sickman Ford Bridge nervous about the project. Questions have been going to the City of Oakville and the City has been working with the Chehalis Tribe to let people know that there will be a road by-pass during the building of the bridge so people don't have to make a big loop around.

c. Correspondence

There was no correspondence

d. State Team Report

Mr. Ogden reported that the Conservation Commission put money up for Lewis County to do some survey work for critter pads. The Commission is working with Grays Harbor County and Thurston County for the same work. The money that the Commission put forward for the existing pads permitting has not all been spent and it needs to be as the money will not be re-appropriated.

Mr. Nelson stated that WDFW is involved in the fish technical meetings. The new traps are working. His agency is putting staff on the ground for partnerships.

Mr. Donahue has been working with Mr. Kramer on organizing the next biennium DOT alternatives. All agencies will meet next Tuesday to formalize staff work. There is progress on securing federal match qualifications for work and as part of that Mr. Donahue sent a letter to the Seattle District requesting a kicking off process and requesting staff assignment to help with the process. There has been no formal response to that request yet. | |

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Mr. Kramer stated he and the State Team have been asked, assuming the budget passes, to make sure that work starts immediately. The team is to define what work that will be performed internally by State agencies and what will be done by consultants. They will be making a recommendation to the State Agencies and then to Chehalis work group so an RFP can go out regarding water retention.

Mr. Ogden stated in anticipation of state funding, there is \$300,000 for geomorphology training in May so field work can be started when the money is released.

7. Financial Report

Ms. Napier stated the latest report is dated March 18 and shows \$7,412.04 expended since last month. The second page shows funds expended from the beginning. She stated in January the Flood Authority asked for a budget amendment to increase Mr. Boettcher's budget by \$20,000. It was approved by the

BOCC and money was shifted around. The Early Warning invoices have gone out. The second round will be coming out about the time you pay the first. She reminded the members that the money is not coming from Lewis County to pay the initial bill to WEST.

Mr. Averill stated that Aberdeen's payment was contingent upon planning for 2013. We don't want to get too close to December 2013 as this must be reconciled for the next biennium. Chair Raines stated the Executive Committee would look into that.

Mr. Averill stated the Sickman Ford Bridge report was sent out. The engineering certifications say that the bridge will not increase flow or depths and there will be no increase or decrease downstream of the bridge including Porter and Elma. This report answers the questions that were raised and he would like Mr. McFarland to get a copy of the report.

8. Confirm Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a phone meeting on April 18 at 11:00. Information for calling in will be sent out closer to the meeting date. The next in-person meeting will be on May 16 with the location to be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05.